

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicant has canceled Claims 11 and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer and rewritten Claims 12 in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 11 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shigeta (US 6,091,398).

Applicant traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the present-claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited reference. More specifically, Claims 11 and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The rejection to these claims is moot. In addition, Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form according to the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, Claims 12 – 13, 15, 17 – 20, 29 and 31 – 33 are allowable.

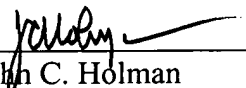
Therefore, the newly presented claims are not anticipated by Shigeta and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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